

County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health
Food and Housing Division
www.sdcdeh.org

5500 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123
P.O. Box 129261 San Diego, CA 92112-9261
1-800-253-9933 | 858-505-6648

HELPFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Food and Housing Duty Specialist
Get answers for your technical questions
(858) 505-6900
fhdutye@sdcounty.ca.gov

Food and Housing Permitting Line
Obtain information about Health Permit requirements
(858) 505-6666

FHD Epidemiology Liaison
Report a food-borne illness
(858) 505-6814
fhdepi@sdcounty.ca.gov

FHD Complaint Desk
Report a sanitation complaint
(858) 505-6903
fhdcomplaints@sdcounty.ca.gov

Food Handler Webpage
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/food/foodhandler.html

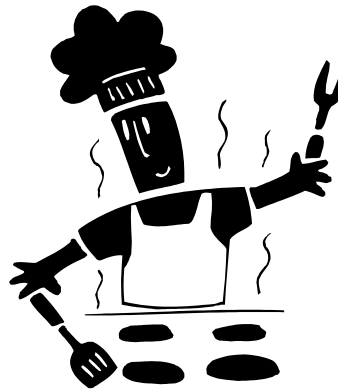
Where can I find additional Food Handler information?

If you need more information regarding Food Handler requirements in the County of San Diego, visit our Food Handler web page at:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/food/foodhandler.html>

PLEASE BE ADVISED

Food Handler cards from state approved courses, from other states or from other counties are not valid in the County of San Diego.



Important Information for Local Retail Food Businesses About the New California Food Handler Card Law



*"Environmental and public health through leadership,
partnership and science"*

County of San Diego

Food Handler Program

The Food and Housing Division (FHD) of the Department of Environmental Health regulates retail food businesses in the County of San Diego, issuing Health Permits and conducting routine inspections with the goal of ensuring safe food for the public.

The County of San Diego established a Food Handler Program in the 1980's. This program has been an important tool in educating food handlers and preventing food-borne illnesses. Because of its successful implementation, it was used as one of the models to craft Senate Bill 602, the new California Food Handler Card Law that became effective on July 1, 2011. This new law requires food handlers working in California to obtain a Food Handler card by taking a food safety training course and getting a passing grade on a test of knowledge.

The new California Food Handler law does not apply to food handlers in the County of San Diego because the county already had an existing Food Handler Program before this law was enacted.

Food handlers in the County of San Diego are not required to obtain a California Food Handler card. They are only required to meet the County of San Diego's Food Handler Program requirements. Cards issued by other counties or jurisdictions are not valid in the County of San Diego.

What types of food handler training are acceptable in the County of San Diego?

There are three acceptable forms of training:

1. County of San Diego Food Handler In-house Test

- Self-study. Review Food Handler training pamphlet before taking exam
- Test can be given by the assigned or designated Food Safety Certified person at a food facility
- Passing score is 80% (must have no more than six errors to pass the exam)
- Test expires after three years
- Only valid at the facility where test was taken
- Tests taken by each employee must be available for review by inspector

2. County of San Diego Food Handler Classroom Training

- A 3-hour course provided by approved schools (see list of schools)
- Passing grade is 80% and card may be used at multiple locations
- Card expires after three years
- Food Handler card may be renewed by taking and passing the test

3. Food Safety Certificate

- At least one person at each food facility must have a Food Safety Certificate
- This an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) approved and accredited food safety certification examination.
- Passing grade is 80%
- Expires after five years

Where can I get a list of approved Food Handler schools?

1- Ask your FHD inspector

Your inspector can provide a list of approved schools.

2- Visit FHD's web site http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/deh/food/pdf/publications_fhschools860.pdf

3- Contact the FHD's Duty Desk

To obtain a list, call (858) 505-6900 or send e-mail to:
fhdutyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov

What if I lose my food handler card? Can I get a duplicate?

Yes, if you renewed your Food Handler card at the County offices within the last three years. The FHD only maintains in its records the names of those food handlers that renewed their Food Handler card at the County offices within the last three years.

Is there an approved online course for the Food Handler card?

No. Currently there are no online courses approved by the County of San Diego for the Food Handler card.

